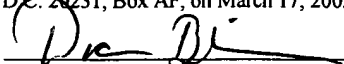


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PATENT
Docket No. 397272000700

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, Box AF, on March 17, 2003.


Diane Blevins



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Laurent HUMEAU et al.

Serial No.: 09/819,401

Filing Date: March 27, 2001

For: IMPROVED CONDITIONALLY
REPLICATING VECTORS FOR
INHIBITING VIRAL INFECTIONS

Examiner: Bao Q. LI

Group Art Unit: 1648

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REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Advisory Action mailed January 15, 2003, which is the date of expiration of the shortened statutory period for responding to the Office Action made "final" mailed October 10, 2002.

Accordingly, a Petition for a two month extension is enclosed herewith to extend the period for response to Saturday, March 15, 2003. This Reply is thus believed to be timely filed within two months of the mail date of the Advisory Action.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-21 are pending and have been rejected. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.